

Mayor's Office of Sustainability

Ord. No. 618-2023

Legislative Summary

To request new legislation authorizing the Department of Finance to apply, accept and spend grant funds in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, to facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive regional climate action planning process under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) "Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program: Formula Grants for Planning".

Background/Purpose:

The City of Cleveland Mayor's Office of Sustainability has become a valuable component to the City's progress on Climate action, within both city operations and the community. The Office of Sustainability has continued to save the City money while reducing its environmental greenhouse gas footprint. As part of the effort to continually update the City's 2018 revised Climate Action Plan, the City has agreed to serve as lead agency for the U.S. EPA's **Climate Pollution Reduction Grants** (CPRG) Planning Grant. This grant, authorized by Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), provides funds for the 67 largest metropolitan areas to develop and implement strategies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other harmful air pollutants. As part of its existing efforts to collaboratively and equitably address decarbonization in Greater Cleveland, the Office of Sustainability will coordinate efforts to develop a comprehensive climate action plan that includes the Cleveland-Elyria metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and administer the completion of the grant deliverables. By accepting these grant funds from U.S. EPA, the City through the Department of Finance, will enter into a contract with the EPA to continue to advance climate action planning in Cleveland, that will further enable the City and other jurisdictions within the metropolitan area to apply for a portion of \$4.6 billion in competitive grant funds to implement climate action programming.

Scope of Work/Commodities/Services:

The Department of Finance in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability is seeking legislative authority for the following scope of work:

- Apply, accept, and spend grant funds through the U.S. EPA's "Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Formula Grants for Planning". Requesting authority to implement the grant if awarded, through various city procurement options such as but not limited to professional services (e.g. greenhouse gas inventories, benefit-cost analyses, and workforce assessments) requirements contract, purchases under contract authority (e.g. materials, supplies), and direct awards, while adhering to standard procurement requirements set in the City's Codified Ordinances;
- If the grant is awarded, Sustainability will collaborate with the Department of Finance and other city departments as necessary, to implement the grant, as well as to potentially issue sub-awards to other qualified community partners as sub-recipients of the grant award.

Justification/Urgency:

Request for Introduction on May 15th to Council. The justification for this request is to position the City to serve as lead agency for the region, rather than an alternative lead. The City has demonstrated its human and technical capacity to achieve the grant deliverables and has proven it has widespread support from regional partners, as described in the U.S. EPA program guidance. There is some urgency of this request for legislation related to the upcoming grant application deadline of May 31, 2023, after which these planning dollars will not be available and will be allocated to a different MSA.

Anticipated Costs and funding source:

Anticipated Grant: Up to \$1,000,000. There is no required match from the City of Cleveland. By accepting this grant, the City of Cleveland and other jurisdictions within the Cleveland-Elyria MSA will also become eligible to apply for a future portion of the \$4.6 billion in nationwide competitive implementation grants, beginning in 2024.

Schedule or Term of Contract:

4 years and 4 months (May 31, 2023 to September 2027) for grant application, implementation and close-out. U.S. EPA anticipates awarding and administering the planning grants by August-September 2023. The final deliverable, the Status Report, will be due four years from the date of this grant award.

Current Contract (s):

N/A

Vendor Name	Vendor Address	Vendor Contact
N/A		

Cleveland-Area Small Business Participation:

N/A

Previous contract:

Vendor Name	Vendor Address	Vendor Contact